ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT
24 October 1984

›U.S. EMBASSIES/>JENNINGS: Good evening. There is fear in Washington ‹
>SECURITIES>tonight that somewhere in the world there is soon going to
be more than a threat against American lives or an
American government installation. As ABC's John McWethy
reports, U.S. intelligence is seeing all the signs.

MCWETHY: U.S. intelligence sources say they have detected
disturbing signs in the last few weeks of a
well-orchestrated terrorist action that appears to be
aimed at American facilities and citizens around the
world. Though State Department spokesman John Hughes
refused to be specific, he did provide chilling
confirmation that the Reagan administration believes the
terrorist situation could get much worse in the near
future. JOHN HUGHES (State Department spokesman): But I
think there is new information concerning the threat
across the board to Americans, including newspaper
correspondents and newsmen. There's a great deal of
information, some of it unsubstantiated, some of which
proves negative result in an activity about the movement
of people and money and resources around a region.

MCWETHY: The situation is regarded as so threatening in
Beirut that the U.S. embassy there is conducting virtually
no business. Dependents have been evacuated, as has a
third of the embassy's staff, which has now been cut to
30. Intelligence sources claim the U.S. is now receiving
100 terrorist threats a week, with the largest number
being lodged against American facilities in the Middle
East. But U.S. intelligence sources stress what they are
seeing now, the movement of known terrorists, many with
Iranian connections, the shipment of arms and explosives,
plus cryptic intercepts of terrorist communications, it
all leads them to believe that there will be strikes
against U.S. facilities and citizens. Some of the
strikes, officials fear, could be in the U.S., probably
before the elections. John McWethy, ABC News, the State
Department. ‹